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SACRED PASTIME;

CONSISTING OF

VERSES ON SACRED SUBJECTS.

BY THE

REV. JAMES LAWSON, M.A.

VICAR OF BUCKMINSTER, LEICESTERSHIRE.

*PUBLISHED AND SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSIONS IN CANADA,
UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCY OF
THE BISHOP OF QUEBEC.*

LONDON:

B. FELLOWES, LUDGATE STREET.

1836.

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PRINTED BY R. CLAY, BREAD-STREET-HILL,
DOCTORS' COMMONS.

TO
THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND

FATHER IN GOD,

CHARLES JAMES,

BISHOP OF QUEBEC,

This Volume of Sacred Poetry

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

AS A SMALL TOKEN OF THE ADMIRATION ENTERTAINED

FOR

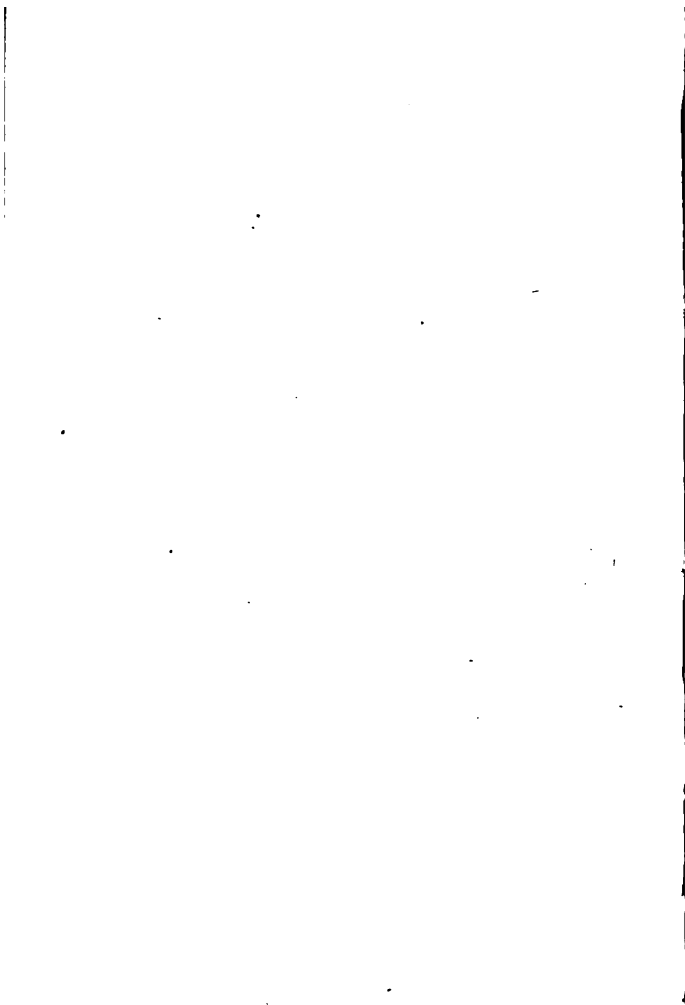
HIS LORDSHIP'S UNWEARIED ZEAL

IN

THE SERVICE OF HIS HEAVENLY MASTER,

BY HIS HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



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PREFACE.

THE Author gives this book the name of "SACRED PASTIME," because it was written to beguile the long hours of the winter nights during the present month. What to himself has been a pleasant employment, he humbly trusts, through the blessing of Him, from whom "all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed," may be productive of edification to the souls of others, and beneficial to the interest of the Canadian Church, in the welfare of which

it behoves every faithful member of the Church of England to take a brotherly and lively interest.

To explain the nature of the Missions, for the benefit of which this work is published, the Author subjoins a short account of them, which he has received from his friend the REV. W. J. D. WADDILOVE, of Beacon Grange, near Hexham, Northumberland, who is the Bishop of Quebec's sole agent in this country on behalf of the Missions in question, and by whom all money received on their account is transmitted direct to Canada, *free of all expense.*

BUCKMINSTER VICARAGE, COLSTERWORTH,

21st November, 1836.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA.

REPORT

OF THE

Bishop of Quebec's Upper Canadian Mission Fund,

FROM NOV. 1, 1834, TO JULY 31, 1836.

TOTAL amount of Subscriptions, Donations, and Collections, as received and accounted for to the Bishop of Quebec, the Hon. and Rt. Rev. Charles James Stewart, to Nov. 1st, 1835			£653	8	4
Additional to March 31st, 1836			117	19	0
Ditto to July 31st.			57	9	6

Missionaries sent out on Agreements for Three Years.

The Rev. H. Vachell		sailed April 19th, 1835.
Rev. Thos. Green, B.A. of Trinity } College, Dublin. }		sailed Oct. 22d, 1835.

The salaries guaranteed from this fund are "not less than £70." The reasonable expenses of the voyage, and journey to the place of their destination, are paid, and the salaries commence for three years, from the period of their commencing their pastoral labours there.

Appointments made in Canada.

These have arisen out of this fund, but are not entirely supported by it:—

Midland District Travelling Mission . . Rev. S. Harpur.

Burlington Bay District Ditto Rev. J. C. Usher.

Gratuities given by the Bishop of Quebec in aid of settled Missions, as per his Letter, dated Toronto, Sept. 10, 1835.

To the Rev. Jas. Padfield, S.P.G.F.P., Missionary at March, in Upper Canada.

To the Rev. Fred. Mack, S.P.G.F.P., Osnabruck, in Upper Canada.

To the Rev. D. Robertson, S.P.G.F.P., Stanbridge, Lower Canada.

Extract from the Bishop's Letter relative to these and other proposed Donations.

"I shall be glad (if you can consistently with your professions, in collecting these funds for me), that you would

authorise me, at my discretion, to apply a part not only to itinerant, but also to settled resident Missions. Most of these Missions are very extensive; and in some cases it is easier to procure the means in particular places, than throughout a whole district. This is especially my difficulty with the Missions to which I have given gratuities, and with those named below, to which I wish to give similar assistance, if you are at liberty to accede."

Further assistance, as proposed above.

"To the Mission at Hamilton, at the head of Lake Ontario. To the Rev. J. D. Geddis, " a most deserving Missionary, of great piety and zeal."

To the Rev. Richard Flood, S. P. G. F. P., Missionary at Caradoc and Delaware, situated in the remote western district of Upper Canada, between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, for his services and exertions among the Bear Creek and Monsec Indians, now first, by his labours, brought within the pale of the Christian Church. (*See his Letter annexed.*)

To Ditto, to enable him to provide himself with a well-qualified Interpreter, to assist him in his labour among these tribes. And to aid in procuring a translation of the Liturgy, the Psalms, the Gospels, and some select Hymns, into the Chippawa tongues, as spoken by these tribes.

*Extract from the Rev. R. Flood's Letter, dated Caradoc,
Sept. 4th, 1835,*

Addressed to the Bishop of Quebec, and sent by him to be communicated to the Subscribers to this "Upper Canadian Mission Fund," as *one out of many* proofs of the benefit resulting from their efforts to provide him with (what he had no other means of providing) disposable funds to meet contingent openings, and to "lengthen his cords."—*Isa.* liv. 2, 3.

"It is now better than two months since I first commenced visiting the Bear Creek and Monsec Indians, who are as yet in a heathenish state, residing on the banks of the river Thames, in the extreme part of this township. I was principally induced to try my own efforts from the circumstance of their unwillingness to join the Methodists, who are established among some Indians about four miles distant from those I now allude to.

"I have now the unspeakable delight to inform you, that my humble services have been crowned with success, so far that I have gained their attention, and that they are now attending my ministry statedly every alternate Sabbath, on which I have to preach twice, as their languages are quite distinct. On last Sabbath there were between forty and fifty in attendance, and their demeanour altogether was marked with attention and reverence, which, from pure pagans, may be considered extraordinary; so

.

that I am inclined to pluck up courage, and go on in the strength of the Lord.

“ But there are two great wants I feel.

“ First, The want of a well-qualified Interpreter.

“ Secondly, The want of some portion of our Liturgy in the Chippawa tongue. I am not aware that there is such a translation in existence, but surely the expense could not be great in getting the Morning Service, with some Psalms and Hymns, and the Gospels, translated for the purpose. This I would undertake to do myself, in a very short time, if I had a good Interpreter. Here is a field of a most interesting description open before me, and what a pity!!! if we cannot procure the means of attaching these poor, but willing to be instructed, heathens to our venerable Church. I could wish also that I had a little shanty to live in among them, say two days in a fortnight, where my presence in visiting them, from wigwam to wigwam, would have an additional effect, besides that it would aid me so much in acquiring a knowledge of their language, so as to be soon able to preach to them in their own tongue the wonderful works of God. Were your Lordship at my elbow for a few days, I am sure that no exertion would be wanting, and no step left untried on your part, to promote these two grand objects which I have so much at heart in regard to these poor Indians. As to the rest of my extensive charge, I have always Evening Service at my own place every Sabbath, which is very well attended—indeed our house is so small, that we

cannot well accommodate more than thirty in the room. On the alternate Sundays I attend at the village of Delaware, where our congregation has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. Since our new church was opened for Divine Service, the usual attendance, when the weather permits, is from seventy to more than a hundred. I have also established a day and Sunday school, which are prospering; the attendance of children amounts to thirty.

“ I should have visited Chatham before this, but found my hands so full of work here, that I was unwilling to disappoint any of the congregations I have formed—besides *Chatham is forty-eight miles from me*, and I cannot afford to be at more expense than I feel I am at present subject to. With my present engagements, family, and two servants (man and woman), and keeping also a few horses (less could not go through the work I have for them), I cannot cover my expenses at less than 200*l.* per annum. The inhabitants of this place are really so poor themselves, that I do not expect one penny from them, and I am consequently eating away my little capital, and cannot help it, and I greatly fear when that is gone I must become either a bankrupt, go to jail, or return to the wars and woes of Ireland; but ‘tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope,’ and I strive to trust that the Lord of all these gifts will do what seemeth him good, and finally overrule all to his own praise and glory. I have, in conclusion, to express

my sincere thanks for your present of the catechisms, and have the honour, &c. &c.

“ RICHARD FLOOD.”

“ *To the Lord Bishop of Quebec.*”

Upper Canada is divided into twelve districts, which require for their scattered population (as may be seen from the above instance of Chatham and Delaware) travelling Missionaries, even where settled resident Missionaries are fixed within the district. Four out of the twelve only are yet provided for; and a well-qualified Missionary, Mr. Green, is gone out to supply a fifth, the utmost extent the present funds allow. Thank God, however, that in this country it is only necessary to bring such a state of things fairly before the public eye, to have “the cruse” supplied. Encouraged by the above addition, as an earnest that the benevolent views of the Bishop will meet still further support from the public, a treaty has been opened with a third gentleman to proceed *without delay*. The fund is not at present equal to this increased expenditure, but “the Lord’s arm is not shortened,” and *upon that we must rely*. “Our need,” says the Bishop in one of his letters, dated Toronto, March 27, 1835, “of churches, parsonages, ministers, and of funds to supply them, is great indeed. The people here come forward to do their part, but their means are very, very small. Pray we the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into this desolate

vineyard." And in another letter, "The want of any funds at my disposal is a great inconvenience to me, and a sad hinderance to our progress;" many of our "most deserving Missionaries are reduced to such a degree as greatly to impair their efficiency on the extensive sphere in which they are called upon to minister. There is no provision for any new Missionaries, either in Upper or Lower Canada, and they are greatly needed by large congregations. Of these, the largest and most destitute are, for the most part, emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland recently settled, very poor, and consequently wholly unable to contribute to the maintenance of the ministry, or provide for the support and extension of the Church to which they belong."

These extracts from the Bishop of Quebec's letters—joined to the more full recital of his difficulties, contained in the "Address to the British Public," out of which these efforts to assist him arose—cannot but speak strongly to the christian feelings of the mother country; and it is hoped such a melancholy picture will not speak in vain, but that having given an impulse to the benevolent efforts of a most apostolic Bishop, the subscribers to the "Upper Canadian Mission Fund" will carry those efforts forward to a prosperous issue.

In concluding this Report of the state and operations of the Fund for the past year, I am desired by the Bishop of Quebec to express, in the strongest manner possible, his most grateful acknowledgments to the subscribers, and to

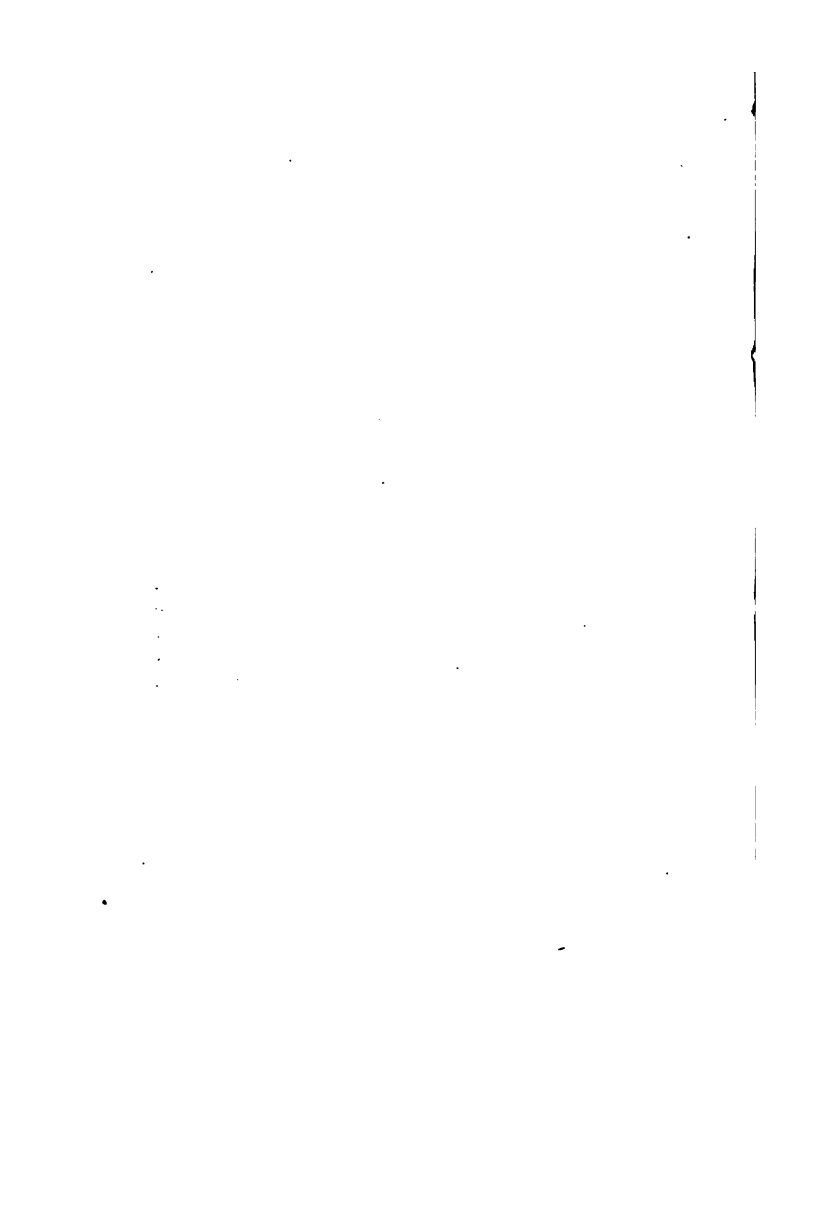
assure them that he will spare no effort on his part to render their benevolent assistance as beneficial as it is possible to make it, to the poor and destitute population over whose spiritual interests it has pleased God to make him overseer.

By order of the Hon. and Right Rev. the Bishop of Quebec,

W. J. D. WADDILOVE.

Beacon Grange, Aug. 1, 1835.

Subscriptions and Donations received by the Rev. W. J. D. Waddilove, Beacon Grange, Hexham; at Messrs. Stone, Martins, and Stones, 68, Lombard-street, London; by the Very Rev. the Vicar of Newcastle, at the Banks of Messrs. Lambton and Co., by Messrs. Akenhead, and Currie & Bowman, Booksellers, and at the Journal Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Forsters and Co., and at the Patriot Office, Carlisle; Swanns and Co., and Messrs. Todd, Booksellers, York; Beckett, Blayds, and Co., Leeds; Terrys, Harrison, and Co., Ripon and Knaresborough; Mortlock and Co., and Messrs. Deighton, Booksellers, Cambridge; Sir W. Forbes and Co., Edinburgh; Warder Office, Berwick; Mr. Humble, Advertiser Office, and Mrs. Andrews, Bookseller, Durham; and by the Rev. J. Lawson, Vicar of Buckminster, Colsterworth, Lincolnshire.



SACRED PASTIME.

I.

THE EMIGRANT'S APPEAL FROM THE DISTANT SETTLEMENTS OF CANADA TO HIS NATIVE LAND.

1.

'Tis Sunday, yet no Sabbath bell
Sounds forth, the sacred hours to tell,
And summon man to prayer :
There's naught whereby to know the day,
And drive, through means of grace, away
The world's corroding care.

2.

There's none our infants to baptize,
Nor celebrate Christ's sacrifice,
In His appointed mode ;
There's none commission'd to proclaim
The world's release in Jesu's name,
From sin's oppressive load.

3.

There's none, while weeping o'er the bier
Of all to us of life most dear,
To raise our thoughts on high ;
And tell us how for ever blest,
The souls who in their Saviour rest,
For whom He deign'd to die.

4.

No glad assemblies gather here,
To sing God's praise with holy fear,
And hear the Gospel's sound ;

No house of prayer attracts our view,
No flowers, nor ever-verdant yew,
Adorn our burial ground.

5.

To thee, O native land ! we look,
Not willingly by us forsook,
But through necessity :
Let not Atlantic billows sever
The mother and her sons for ever,
But show sweet charity !

6.

Behold us not with scornful eye !
Our souls with heavenly food supply !
Our weary spirits stay !
What's to thee given, freely give,
That we with thee for aye may live,
In realms of endless day !

7.

Thus may Canadian hills and plains
Declare how England o'er them reigns,
In gospel peace and love !
And England, clad in light divine,
With each new year more brightly shine,
Supported from above !

II.

PARAPHRASE OF JEREMIAH,

CHAP. X. VERSE 23.

"O Lord! I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

1.

'Tis not in man to guide his feet
To heaven, O God, thy mercy seat;
He cannot find himself the way
That leadeth to eternal day.

2.

O send thy "bright and morning star,"*
To light our footsteps from afar,
To the strait gate and narrow road,
By which is reach'd thy blest abode!

* Revelation xxii. 16.

3.

In contrite hearts vouchsafe to dwell !
And quench the fiery darts of hell !
In Jesu's name set up thy throne,
And reign on earth Thyself alone !

III.

LINES SUGGESTED BY THE CONFESSION IN THE
BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

' Almighty and most merciful Father," &c. &c.

1.

FATHER of mercies, from on high,
Look down on earth with pitying eye ;
Thy faithless children's sins forgive,
And help them to *repent* and *live*.

2.

Repent—ere night succeeds to day,
And takes " the light of life " * away ;
That light which Thou Thyself hast given,
To guide our wand'ring feet to heaven.

* John viii. 12.

3.

Live—while the healing streams flow by,
To quench the thirst of those who die
On earth, through faith in Jesu's blood,
To all but Thee and love of good.

4.

Like sheep, we've left our Shepherd's care,
And wander'd among pastures bare ;
Like graceless spendthrifts, we have spent
Whate'er thy love and mercy lent.

5.

Thou art our Shepherd ! we thy sheep !
Thy word of promise to us keep ;
The shepherd loves his sheep, though they
Hear not his voice, nor call obey.

6.

But how can words thy love unfold ?
That love by man can ne'er be told !

Thine arm,* when nought on earth couldst save,
To thy lost flock salvation gave.

7.

Oh! by thy blood so freely shed
To save us from the ills we dread,
Behold! forgive! in love restore!
And grant that we may sin no more.

* Isaiah lix. 16.

IV.

PARAPHRASE OF THE ABSOLUTION IN THE
BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

"Almighty God," &c. &c.

1.

THE God, through whom alone is given
Pardon to souls, by sorrow riven
Through consciousness of guilt ;
Who bids His ministers proclaim
Peace to the world in Jesu's name,
Whose precious blood was spilt,

2.

To set repenting sinners free,
Who love the gospel's sure decree :
" *Lord, hear us now, we pray ;*

*And grant the gracious words now spoken,
May be to us thine own dear token
Of sin that's wash'd away.*

3.

*" Both now and ever, help us, Lord,
To hear and keep thy holy word,
And serve Thee as we ought ;
Thou never fail'st to succour those,
Whose prayer to Thee, midst earthly woes,
In Jesu's name is brought."*

V.

"GLORIA PATRI."

1.

ALL praise from men on earth !
All praise from saints on high !
To Him whose power gave birth
To all that glads the eye !

2.

O Father, unto Thee
Incessantly we'll sing !
Thy name, from sea to sea,
Throughout the world shall ring !

3.

To Thee, eternal Son !
Shall equal praise be given ;
For Thou the deed hast done
By which we are forgiven.

4.

Inspir'd by Thee, sweet Dove !
Our hearts no cares shall sever
From where Thou dwell'st above,
Eternal Spirit, ever !

5.

This hymn was sung ere man
To Satan's power gave way ;
'Twill rise where it began,
To realms of endless day.

VI.

ON HEARING THE WIND ROARING BOISTEROUSLY
WHILE IN BED AT NIGHT.

1.

HARK ! in the midst of solemn night
A sound bursts on the ear !
Man's dreams and sleep it puts to flight,
And fills his soul with fear.

2.

Fear not, O thou who God do'st fear,
Assuage thy troubled mind ;
Thy God himself to thee draws near,
He walketh on the wind.*

* Psalm civ. 3.

3.

He, Israel's Shepherd, knows no sleep,
But watches night and day
To keep from harm his chosen sheep,
And drive their foes away.

4,

That which thou fear'st is God's* own voice,
A pledge† to thee 'tis given,
That those who in the Lord rejoice,
Shall rest in earth and heaven.

5.

Quake not! with faith lift up thine eye,
And view thy Saviour's form,
Careering 'mid the clouds on high,
And riding on the storm.

[* See Note A in the Appendix.

† See Note B in the Appendix.

VII.

DAWN OF DAY.

1.

DAY dawns; and first attracts the eye
The village steeple, tow'ring high—

There's much from hence to learn.
As points that steeple to the skies,
So should our thoughts for ever rise
With every day's return.

2.

But, see! expands the morning light,
The church itself appears in sight,
In sacred beauty dress'd.
Thus, by degrees, may heaven draw near,
And onward our faint spirits cheer,
By daily toil oppress'd!

VIII.

PARAPHRASE OF THE SECOND COLLECT
AT EVENING PRAYER.

"O God, from whom all holy desires," &c.

1.

O God, from whom each holy thought,
Good word, and action flow !
Peace, among mortals vainly sought,
On us, who ask, bestow :

2.

That thus our souls may mount to Thee
In steadfastness and love ;
While we, from earthly passions free,
Seek happiness above.

3.

We make, O Lord, our humble prayer
Through the great Prince of Peace,
Who makes our earthly wants His care—
May His blest reign increase !

IX.

PARAPHRASE OF THE THIRD COLLECT
AT EVENING PRAYER.

"Lighten our darkness," &c.

1.

O LORD, who call'st at first the light
From dark confusion's deep,
Chase from our souls sin's darker night,—
Thine own lost creatures keep!

2.

O gracious Lord, before Thee now,
In Thine appointed way,
Through Christ, "the light of light,"* we bow,—
Convert our night to day!

* See "Nicene Creed."

X.

PARAPHRASE OF THE FORTY-SECOND PSALM.

1.

As seeks the hart the fountain,
So longs my soul for Thee,
O God,—on Zion's mountain
Could I thy glory see !

2.

There 's nought on earth shall sever
My heart from Salem's towers ;
There had I hoped for ever
To pass the sacred hours :

3.

But here the folk unheeded
Behold my tears, and cry,
“Where’s now thy God? he’s needed
To wipe thy weeping eye.”

4.

O why, my soul, do’st hearken
To grief’s unhallow’d voice?
Should earthly woes dishearten
A son of God’s own choice?

5.

Hope still to be victorious,
Through thy Redeemer’s blood! *
He yet will make me glorious,
I’ll praise Him yet for good.

* See Note C in the Appendix.

6.

Afar, from Jordan's river,
And Hermon's little hill,
My soul, cry, "God, deliver
Thy servant from all ill."

7.

What though the storm fall on thee,
And deep doth call to deep ;
Trust in Jehovah only,
And He thy life shall keep.

8.

Though men regard me wholly
As number'd with the dead,
The Lord, the God most holy,
Shall yet raise up my head.

9.

Why then, my soul, do'st hearken
To grief's unhallow'd voice ?

Why let earth's woes dishearten
A son of God's own choice ?

10.

I yet shall rise victorious
Through my Redeemer's blood !
He yet will make me glorious,
I'll praise Him yet for good.

XI.

ADDRESS TO BUCKMINSTER CHURCH CLOCK.

THOU 'fit companion of our church,
That hourly bid'st us speed our search
For that bright treasure, only won
Through faith in God's eternal Son.
Midst joy, midst grief, thou keep'st alone
The same unvarying solemn tone !
Thou tell'st the old, the young, the gay,
That earth is hast'ning fast away !
Thou tell'st the good, by grief oppress'd,
They soon shall enter into rest !
Thou tell'st the wicked they shall die,
And at the door* the Judge is nigh !
O may we all thy warning hear,
And serve our God with holy fear !

* James v. 9.

XII.

PARAPHRASE OF THE HUNDREDTH PSALM.

1.

WITH holy melody break forth,
Ye nations, to proclaim,
From east to west, from south to north,
The great Jehovah's name !

2.

Be sure 'twas He who form'd you all,
His glory to declare ;
His work ye are, both great and small,
The flock who feel his care.

3.

O crowd His courts ! His presence seek
With thankful hymns of joy ;
Swift be your tongues His praise to speak,
His love your hearts employ !

4.

For gracious is the living Lord,
His mercy lasts for aye ;
The holy comforts of His word
Shall never pass away !

XIII.

ON ECCLESIASTES, CHAP. XI. VERSES 9, 10.

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth," &c.

1.

REJOICE, O youth! let no sad thoughts restrain
The jocund revels of the passing hour!
Fill high the bowl! expel the dæmon Pain!
And seek for rest in Pleasure's living bower!
But know, the scene must quickly change! The joy
Which now thou feel'st, shall shortly turn to grief;
Strange fears by day thy troubled soul annoy,
And haunt the visions of thy youthful sleep,
Those dreams of endless bliss—how dazzling but how
brief!

2.

Time with his wrinkles shall impress thy brow,
Thy shining locks his hoary liv'ry wear,

Those cheeks, which sorrow hath not marr'd, e'en
now

Shall sink beneath the writhing touch of care.
Then shall no learned doctor's prescient skill

Dispel from off thy brow the settled gloom ;
Disease and death thy anxious thoughts shall fill
With dreadful apprehensions, — and the tomb
Receive thee in its gap, reserv'd for Judgment's doom.

3.

Stay thy mad course ! Rejoice ! but let thy glee

Be of a purer, more angelic kind ;

Such as 'tis said, departed this life, we

Shall in a happier state immortal find.

Rejoice ! let nature's works delight thine eye !

The mountains topp'd by the o'erhanging wood,

The ocean, ocean's rocks, the azure sky, —

These be thy joys ! for those the praise thou should
Return to Him who gave, The Giver of all good !

XIV.

PARAPHRASE OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH PSALM.

1.

AMONGST his people, God alone
His grace and power displays ;
To Israel alone are known
His great and wondrous ways.

2.

At Salem is His dwelling place ;
On holy Zion's mount
He shows the brightness of his face :
His mercies who can count ?

3.

To Zion, strong in God's own might,
Let lofty mountains bow !

Let robbers' hills conceal in night
Their dark and murky brow !

4.

O holy mount ! when haughty foes
Thy sacred heights assail'd,
They sank as sink the melting snows,
Their vaunted courage fail'd.

5.

'Twas thou, O God, who quell'd their ire !
Who broke their chariot wheel !
'Twas thine own wrath consum'd in fire
The warriors' deadly steel !

6.

Earth, as she view'd her sons provoke
The anger of their God,
Stood trembling at the sudden stroke,
And bow'd beneath his nod.

7.

Man's fierceness tends but to excite
God's majesty and power ;
O Lord, when men 'gainst thee unite,
They perish ere an hour.

8.

Ye faithful servants of your Lord,
To him your offering bring !
Adore and keep his holy word,
His well-earn'd praises sing.

9.

Earth's angry rulers he shall chide,
And make them own his sway ;
Their wicked thoughts and swelling pride
His mandates shall obey.

XV.

PARAPHRASE OF JEREMIAH, CHAP. III. VERSE 22.

“Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto Thee; for Thou art the Lord our God.”

1.

INVITATION.

RETURN! return! ye stubborn race,
And quickly seek your Father's face,
 Mine anger's pass'd away :
Mine own belov'd eternal Son
Hath your redemption nobly won ;
 Behold salvation's day !

2.

REPLY.

*We come, we come from ev'ry shore,
Our past ingratitude deplore,
And own Thee as our Lord;
Our only Lord, our only God,
Who, when our sins deserv'd thy rod,
Hast sent thy saving word.*

XVI.

PARAPHRASE OF THE PRAYER FOR ALL
CONDITIONS OF MEN.

"O God! the Creator and Preserver of all mankind," &c. &c.

1.

O God! Creator of mankind!
Preserver of us all!
Lighten the souls by nature blind
Through our first parents' fall!

2.

To all the world Thy ways make known;
Thy saving health and might
Be to the nations quickly shown
Who dwell in Satan's night.

3.

But chiefly Thine own church, that 's found
Dispers'd through ev'ry land,
Keep firmly settled as the ground
Whereon all things do stand !

4.

That all who own the Saviour's name,
May, by thy Spirit led,
Abide in peace, and fitly frame
Their lives as Thou hast said.

5.

Thy goodness finally declare,
O Father, unto those
In mind or body bow'd by care,
Or vex'd by other woes.

6.

To all give patience and relief!

Thy will on earth be done!

O hear us, when to Thee we speak,

For sake of thy dear Son!

XVII.

PARAPHRASE OF THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING
IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

1.

ALMIGHTY God, to whom we owe
Whate'er we feel of good below,—
Unworthy though we be,—
Accept our thanks for mercies shown
To us, and not to us alone,
But to all men, by Thee !

2.

For our creation by Thy word,
For life and health by Thee preserv'd,
For ev'ry blessing here ;

But chiefly for the world's release,
Through Christ, the blessed Prince of Peace,
From sin and Satan's fear,—

3.

For means of grace, in mercy giv'n,
To guide us home when from Thee driv'n ;
For glorious hopes above ;
O not with thankful words alone,
But in our lives Thy praise be shown,
The surest sign of love !

4.

Our willing off'ring, through thy Son,
With Thee and thy bless'd Spirit one,
Accept, in mercy, Lord !
And may on earth the holy Three,
Who dwell in wondrous unity,
For ever be ador'd !

XVIII.

HYMN FOR A FUNERAL,

SUGGESTED BY ST. JOHN, CHAP. V. VERSE 25.

1.

JESUS! Restorer of the dead,
With Thee we fain would die,
That, when the dust's our bodies' bed,
Our souls may mount on high.

2.

Alive to all but Thee alone,
And thy converting grace,
Our lost condition we bemoan,
And long to see Thy face.

3.

Shine on us, Lord ! each base desire,
Each wand'ring thought reclaim !
And fill us with celestial fire,
That we may love Thy name.

4.

Be Thou our guide, this vale of tears
No longer dark shall be ;
Our worldly griefs and death's cold fears
Shall all yield up to Thee.

5.

Here may thy mercy and thy love
Our constant praise employ ;
And all our thoughts ascend above,
In gratitude and joy !

XIX.

LINES ON INFANT BAPTISM.

1.

O WHY keep infants from their Lord ?
They never disobey'd His word,
Nor went, like men, astray.
“ Forbid them not,”* the Saviour cries,
“ They 're precious in my Father's eyes,
He keeps them night and day.”†

2.

He spoke—and gently touch'd their head ;
A heavenly light was o'er them shed,
As came God's blessing down ;
It seem'd as if away from earth,
Inspir'd with joy at second birth,
Their souls had upward flown.

* Mark x. 14.

† Matthew xviii. 10.

XX.

LINES ON ACTS, CHAP. VIII. VERSE 8.

“ And there was great joy in that city.”

O HAPPY city, fill'd with holy joy !
What earthly power shall e'er thy peace destroy ?
Strong in thy Saviour's might, thou may'st defy
All who behold thy walls with hateful eye.
Thy treasure 's hid in Christ, conceal'd from view
Of all who curst ambition's course pursue.
Thine armour, forg'd on heaven's sacred height,
Hell's envious legions soon shall put to flight.
Thrice happy city ! how thou didst rejoice
To hear salvation's long expected voice !
Unlike misguided Judah's fallen race,
Who madly slept throughout their day of grace,
In Philip's miracles thou saw'st the power
Alone which makes unholy spirits cower ;

Sin's empire broken, burst upon thy view,
And man for heav'n form'd by God anew.
O spread salvation's tidings o'er the earth ;
Let rocks and hills resound with sacred mirth.
The Saviour's name to distant lands make known,
That they His sceptre's blessed sway may own !

XXI.

PARAPHRASE OF THE FIFTH PART OF THE
CXIXth PSALM.

“ Teach me O Lord,” &c.

1.

O TEACH me, and I shall be taught
To serve thee, Lord, alway ;
And ev'ry day be nearer brought
To thy eternal day.

2.

Implant Thy law upon my heart !
Restrain my roving eyes !
And I from Thee shall ne'er depart,
Nor follow wicked lies.

3.

Unto thy testimonies, Lord,
Direct my whole desire !
And let Thy grace and quick'ning word
My longing soul inspire !

4.

Thy statutes and Thy fear indite
Upon my willing breast !
Thy dread rebuke remove from sight,
And give thy servant rest !

5.

Behold how, with perpetual love,
I seek to do Thy will !
Impart thy Spirit from above !
My righteous hopes fulfil !

XXII.

PARAPHRASE OF THE COLLECT IN THE
COMMUNION SERVICE.

"Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open," &c.

1.

O God, to whom all hearts are op'n,
And ev'ry word in secret spok'n,—
Who rul'st us at thy will,—
Thou know'st how vain and full of care.
Our thoughts and meditations are,
To earth bent downward still.

2.

O cleanse us by thy Spirit's fire,
That we may wholly Thee desire,
And fitly praise thy name !
We own ourselves to be but dust ;
In Christ alone we place our trust,
Who to redeem us came.

XXIII.

MEDITATION IN VERSE ON THE CXXIII^d PSALM.

1.

He who loves Christ, his church will love,
And ever pray to God above
To guard her sacred citadel
From foes on earth, from foes in hell.

2.

The Saviour loves the fervent vows
Breath'd in behalf of his dear spouse ;
He loves His children to unite,
And put His enemies to flight.

3.

But party strife and fierce debate
The Prince of Peace for aye doth hate ;
Those only who adorn the bride*
The Bridegroom's coming shall abide.

4.

May showers of grace for ever fall,
Blest Church ! on thy time-hallow'd wall ;
And glad salvation greet the ear
Of all who in thy courts appear !

5.

Because in thee † my God doth dwell,
And triumph o'er the gates of hell.
Where'er I roam, by land or flood,
I'll ever seek to do thee good.

* Revelations xxi. 2.

† Psalm cxxii. 9.

XXIV.

SUPPLICATION BEFORE PARTAKING OF
THE LORD'S SUPPER.

1.

O SAVIOUR, help us to draw near,
With thankful hearts and holy fear,
The tokens of thy love !
As low we bend th' adoring knee,
May ev'ry thought be lost in Thee,
Or fix'd on heav'n above.

2.

Lord, let thy blood-stain'd sacrifice
Be precious in thy servant's eyes,
In thine appointed hour !
As we receive Thy bread and wine,
May Thy bless'd kingdom on us shine
In all its glorious pow'r.

XXV.

ON HEARING THE LOW MURMUR OF THE WIND
WHILE IN BED AT NIGHT.

THE wind it blows, but 'tis not high—
It heaves a low and mournful sigh,
Like some sad dirge by mortals sung
O'er him whose fun'ral knell is rung ;—
It sinks, and then again doth blow
In accents sorrowfully slow,
As if blest spirits in the sky
Did grieve for sinners doom'd to die,
Or for the saints on earth did mourn,
By worldly trials rent and torn ;—
It soothes my soul, that solemn sound,
Too long by earthly fetters bound ;—
It falls like music on my ear,
And whispers that my God is near.

O Thou, alike in breeze and storm,
Who dost Thy mighty works perform,
Blow softly o'er each troubled breast,
And give the wounded conscience rest !
Peace, through the Prince of Peace, bestow
On all who 're sunk in depths of woe !

XXVI.

THE MORNING MIST.

1.

THE morning's mist conceals from sight
The pleasant woods, the mountain's height,
The fields with verdure gay;—
But yonder comes the glorious sun!
Before his course has well begun,
That mist shall melt away.

2.

So, Sun of Righteousness,* appear!
The veil from off our vision tear,
Which hides Thee from our view!
Unfold heav'n's plains and golden street,†
Where love, and joy, and pleasure meet,
And last for ever new!

* Malachi iv. 2.

† Revelations xxi. 21.

XXVII.

HYMN FOR ADVENT.

"Thy kingdom come."—LORD'S PRAYER.

1.

"THY kingdom come" to ev'ry shore,
O Lord, where man is found !
Redeem the souls for evermore,
By sin and Satan bound.

2.

"Thy kingdom come !" that blessed day,
When thou on earth shalt reign,
And death and sorrow chase away,
And banish ev'ry pain !

3.

When in the wilderness shall flow
Perpetual streams of grace,

And fragrant myrtles* freely blow
Where's now the brier's place.

4.

When savage beasts shall cease to roam
In cruel search of prey,
And wolves† with lambs shall make their home,
And lions feed on hay.

5.

"Thy kingdom come" to souls oppress'd
By poverty and grief!
O give the weary mourners rest,
O send them quick relief!

6.

"Thy kingdom come" in all its might,
And majesty, and pow'r!

* Isaiah lv. 63.

† Isaiah xi. 6.

When earth shall vanish from thy sight
At Thine appointed hour ;—

7.

When faithful souls shall leap for joy
To hear Thy quick'ning voice ;
And doubts and fears no more annoy
The children of Thy choice !

XXVIII.

ADDRESS TO THE JACKDAWS WHICH INHABIT THE
STEEPLE OF BUCKMINSTER CHURCH.

1.

YE birds, who love our house of pray'r,
The house of Him by whose kind care
Your place of rest and simple fare
Are given !

2.

Here ye return to sleep at night ;
However long your daily flight,
Our steeple 's welcome to your sight
At even.

3.

I love you well, ye winged race,
Because ye love the holy place
Where men should seek their Maker's face
In season.

4.

Though full of care and worldly thought,
They might, by your example taught,
Learn that which never can be bought,—
True reason.

5.

Ye gladly take what God doth give ;
As He hath taught ye, so ye live ;
How then shall God in men forgive
Desertion ?

6.

No—rather leaving thoughts which tire
The soul in vain, man should aspire
To that which daily doth require
Exertion,—

7.

The conquest of the heav'nly prize
Which glads the soul, delights the eyes,
And drives away the thoughts which rise
In sadness.

8.

Long, happy birds, may ye remain
Free from man's greedy love of gain ;
And, where ye dwell, prolong your reign
In gladness !

XXIX.

THE SPIRITS OF THE WIND.

1.

THE spirits of the wind
By those alone are heard
Whose very inmost mind
By love to God is stirr'd.

2.

What is it that they say ?
They say, in solemn tone,
That all things pass away,
As by the tempest blown.

3.

They say true peace on earth
Is no where to be found ;
That 'tis of heav'nly birth,
And heav'nward they are bound.

4.

With them they bid us fly
From worldly cares away,
And seek the God most high,
Whose mandates they obey.

5.

O Thou, who send'st them here
Thy pleasure to fulfil,
Impress us with Thy fear,
Like them to do Thy will.

XXX.

THE POWER OF FAITH, AS EXHIBITED IN
A STORM AT SEA.

1.

BLAST follow'd blast, and wave on wave
Incessantly did roll ;
The stoutest hearts, that erst were brave,
Could not their fears control.

2.

But one amongst them stood alone,
With fix'd and fearless eye ;
A power to all the rest unknown
Still rais'd his head on high.

3.

What was that pow'r ? the pow'r of faith
In God's most holy word ;

'Twas this sustain'd his soul in death,
He knew his pray'r was heard ;—

4.

That pray'r which he had daily made,
That he in God might trust,
And never doubt nor fear his aid
Though angry storms should burst.

5.

'Twas this alone sustain'd him then,
A pow'r unknown, unfelt
By all, save good and holy men,
Who 'fore their God have knelt.

6.

Faith breaks the lion's rav'nous jaw,*
It slacks the martyr's fire,
The wicked it inspires with awe,
And quells their wrathful ire.

* Heb. xi. 33, 34.

XXXI.

PARAPHRASE OF SECOND CORINTHIANS,

CHAP. XIII. VERSE 14.

“ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.”

THE Saviour's grace, the Father's love,
The quick'ning Spirit's pow'r,
Descend upon us from above,
And shield us ev'ry hour !

THE END.

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.—In Gen. iii. 8, the word voice, as applied with respect to God, signifies, in the Hebrew, *wind*, as is explained in the marginal references attached to the Bible.

NOTE B.—“A pledge,” because a token of God’s presence and power.

NOTE C.—“Redeemer’s blood.” It may, perhaps, appear to some out of place to have put these words in David’s mouth, but we must remember that David was one of that happy number who, having seen the promises of a Saviour “afar off, were persuaded of them and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Hence, no doubt, the Psalmist’s hope of deliverance expressed in the 42d Psalm. This, as he expressed it in his last words, was “all his salvation and all his desire.”

•• If any of the Purchasers of this Work think
the price of it too dear, the Author would remind
them of the sacred cause it is intended to advance.

R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD-STREET-HILL.

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